The original documents are located in Box 28, "4/3/76 - Gridiron Dinner" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WITE FRESTORME HAS SERE

GRIDIRON DINNER

SATURDAY - APRIL 3, 1976

1 Parts Press. Whenters Philipping -1 - How Will menters Philipping -1 + + 1 - United greater United greater AS WE GATHER HERE TONIGHT IN COMPANY THAT IS +-- AND CLOTHES THAT ARE NOT -- IT REALLY FEELS GOOD TO BE IN THE GLOW OF THE GRIDIRON AGAIN. AS ALWAYS IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL SHOW --SPARKLING LYRICS, MEMORABLE MUSIC, A GREAT CAST ---

AND OF COURSE, THAT SENSATIONAL SOFT-SHOE DANCE NUMBER.

WHAT GRACE, WHAT DELICACY, WHAT CHARM

BETTY WASN'T BAD EITHER.

-2-

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YOU KNOW, WHEN WE WENT TO CHINA -- AT

PARTIES -- AT STATE DINNERS -- EVERYBODY IS ALWAYS

COMPLIMENTING BETTY'S DANCING. I DON'T WANT TO

SOUND JEALOUS, BUT I CAN DANCE BETTER THAN HER

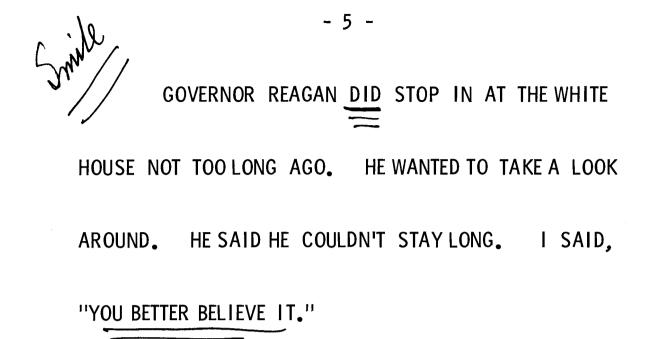
ANYTIME. I JUST DON'T LOOK GOOD IN TIGHTS.

THIS HAS REALLY BEEN A VERY EXCITING WEEK TUESDAY NIGHT BETTY AND I WATCHED THE ACADEMY AWARDS AND DID YOU NOTICE HOW MUCH THE TITLES OF THOSE MOVIES HAD IN COMMON WITH THE PRIMARIES? DOG DAY AFTERNOON $--\frac{1}{2}$ JAWS $-\frac{1}{2}$ TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN $-\frac{1}{2}$ ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, $-\frac{1}{2}$ ALTHOUGH I MUST ADMIT I DIDN'T REALIZE ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST WAS A REGULAR MOVIE. I THOUGHT IT WAS A

DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CAPITOL HILL.

WELL, AS JIMMY AND JOHN HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED, THE PRIMARIES ARE REALLY NARROWING DOWN THE CANDIDATES. THE DEMOCRATS ARE NOW DOWN TO 28 AND THE REPUBLICANS TO ONE AND A HALF.

-4 -



WE WENT TO THE BATHROOM TO WASH UP AND

I TOLD HIM TO BE SURE HE USED THE GUEST TOWELS.

LET ME CONGRATULATE GOVERNOR JIMMY CARTER ON HIS FINE SPEECH. THAT'S THE GOVERNOR OVER THERE. IT'S EASY TO SEE WHERE HE SITS. NOW IF WE COULD

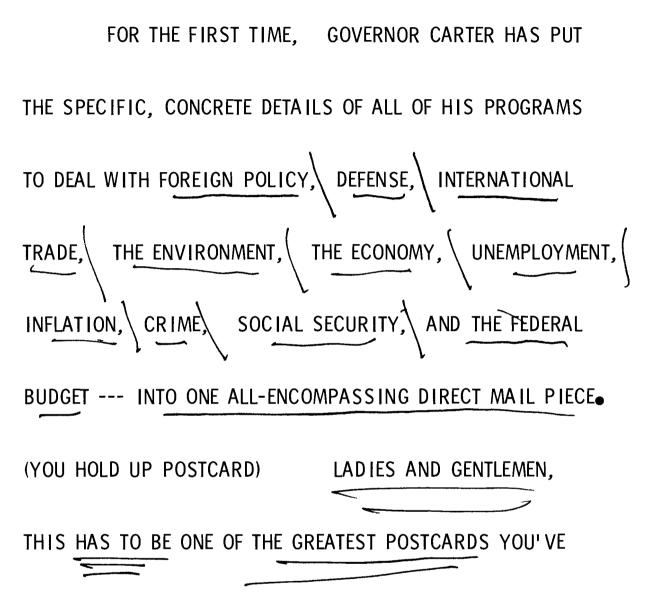
ONLY FIGURE OUT WHERE HE STANDS.

- 6 (a) -

INCIDENTALLY, TO DISPELL ANY DOUBTS ABOUT

THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS POSITION, GOVERNOR CARTER IS

NOW BEGINNING A MASSIVE DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN.



EVER READ.

I KEEP HEARING AND READING ABOUT HOW JIMMY

CARTER IS A PEANUT FARMER. NOW THE SYMBOL OF THE Winner Strength of the Symbol of the

JIMMY CARTER HAS A LOT GOING FOR HIM BUT I

HAPPEN TO KNOW THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IS HOPING AGAINST

HOPE I'LL BE REELECTED. IT'S MUCH EASIER CLEANING

(PHONE RINGS)

EXCUSE ME. I THINK THIS COULD BE IMPORTANT.

(PICK UP RECEIVER)

HELLO ----- HUBERT!

UH - HUH ------UH- HUH ------ UH - HUH -----

(PICK UP PIPE - LOAD PIPE)-

UH - HUH.

(LIGHT PIPE ~ PICK UP RECEIVER)

UH - HUH ----- UH - HUH -----

GOODBYE, HUBERT ------ GOODBYE, HUBERT -----

GOODBYE, HUBERT.

(HOLD RECEIVER TO MIKE -- HANG UP)

THAT WAS HUBERT. HE JUST WANTED TO SAY HELLO.

THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT EVENING.

YOU KNOW, THE GRIDIRON DINNER IS ONE OF SO <u>MANY</u> FINE OLD WASHINGTON TRADITIONS THAT MAKE LIVING, WORKING AND SERVING HERE, A VERY

FULFILLING EXPERIENCE.

THE ESSENCE OF THE GRIDIRON IS SUMMED UP IN ITS BELIEF THAT WE CAN SINGE BUT NOT BURN. THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD IDEA FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AS WELL. WE ARE REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS, CONSERVATIVES, MODERATES, LIBERALS, OR A HOST OF OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS -- BUT ABOVE ALL, WE ARE AMERICANS. WE COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER IN THE POLITICAL ARENAS SO THAT AMERICA HAS THE CHOICE OF, AND THE BEST THINKING FROM, MANY DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES AND VIEWPOINTS.

-14-

AMERICA'S 200 YEARS OF GREATNESS HAVE PROVED THE WORTH AND THE WISDOM OF THIS DIVERSITY. HERE UNDER THE WARM GLOW OF THE GRIDIRON, YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE FUN THAT CAN SPRING FROM THIS DIVERSITY AS WELL. FREEDOM AND FUN. WHEN YOU COME RIGHT DOWN TO IT, ONE REQUIRES THE OTHER. TONIGHT, I SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF THE GRIDIRON FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO BOTH AND FOR SHARING THIS WONDERFUL EVENING WITH US ALL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT